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COMMITTEE ON APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW OF
ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL JUDGEMENTS
Forty-seventh session

INFORMATION CIRCULAR

I. DATE AND PLACE OF MEETING

1. The 1st meeting of the forty-seventh session of the Committee on Applications for Review of Administrative Tribunal Judgements will take place at United Nations Headquarters on Wednesday, 26 June 1996. The exact time and place of the meeting will be announced in the Journal of the United Nations. The provisional agenda for the 1st meeting is to be found in document A/AC.86/R.304.

II. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

2. Under article 11 of the statute of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal (see General Assembly resolution 957 (X) of 8 November 1955), the Committee is composed of Member States, the representatives of which have served on the General Committee of the most recent regular session of the General Assembly. The present membership of the Committee therefore comprises the following 28 Member States: Albania, Algeria, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Namibia, Nicaragua, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Yemen.

III. PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE AND DECISIONS TAKEN

3. Information concerning previous meetings of the Committee and decisions of the Committee at its first to forty-sixth sessions is to be found in documents A/AC.86/INF/1-45.

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4. At its forty-sixth session, held on 27 February 1996, the Committee considered the following applications:

(a) Application of Ms. Beg for a review of Administrative Tribunal Judgement No. 702 - Beg v. the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

(b) Application of Ms. Larsen for a review of Administrative Tribunal Judgement No. 703 - Larsen v. the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

(c) Application of Khalidi et al. for a review of Administrative Tribunal Judgement No. 710 - Khalidi et al. v. the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

(d) Application of Mr. Museibes for a review of Administrative Tribunal Judgement No. 717 - Museibes v. the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

(e) Application of Khadra et al. for a review of Administrative Tribunal Judgement No. 716 - Khadra et al. v. the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

(f) Application of the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization for a review of Administrative Tribunal Judgement No. 695 - Burnet et al. v. the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization.

5. After consideration of the aforementioned applications, the Committee decided, respectively, that there was not a substantial basis for the applications of Ms. Beg, Ms. Larsen, Khalidi et al., Mr. Museibes and Khadra et al. under article 11 of the statute of the Administrative Tribunal and therefore concluded that the International Court of Justice should not be requested to give an advisory opinion in respect of Judgements Nos. 702, 703, 710, 716 and 717. With reference to the application of the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, the Committee decided that, having regard to the provisions of the 1964 Special Agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization extending the competence of the Administrative Tribunal of the United Nations to the Inter-Governmental Maritime Organization with respect to applications alleging non-observance of contracts of employment or of the terms of appointment of staff members of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Organization, the Committee was not competent to deal with the application of the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization. The Committee, therefore, decided that the International Court of Justice should not be requested to give an advisory opinion in respect of Judgement No. 695.

6. The decisions of the Committee at its forty-sixth session were formally announced at the meeting of the Committee held in public on 27 February 1996. They are contained in document A/AC.86/56.

IV. PURPOSE OF THE SESSION

A. Application received from Mr. Alphonse Nkubana

7. On 21 November 1995, the United Nations Administrative Tribunal rendered Judgement No. 738 in the case of Nkubana v. the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The official text of the judgement in English and French is to be found in document AT/DEC/738. The judgement was communicated to the parties on 6 February 1996.

8. The application from Mr. Nkubana dated 16 February 1996, requesting a review of Judgement No. 738 rendered by the United Nations Administrative Tribunal in the case of Nkubana v. the Secretary-General of the United Nations, was received by the Secretary of the Committee on 4 March 1996.

9. On 22 May 1996, after translation of the application of Mr. Nkubana into the official languages of the General Assembly, it was communicated in document A/AC.86/R.292 to all members of the Committee as well as to parties to the proceedings before the Administrative Tribunal, together with a copy of Tribunal Judgement No. 738 (AT/DEC/738). It should be mentioned that the application had attached to it eight annexes which have not been circulated, since such circulation is not provided for in the rules of procedure of the Committee. Those documents may be examined in the office of the Secretary of the Committee (room S-3420I).

10. Comments of the Respondent submitted with respect to the application of Mr. Nkubana in accordance with article V, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure of the Committee are contained in document A/AC.86/R.293.

B. Application received from Ms. Natasha Benthin

11. On 28 July 1995, the United Nations Administrative Tribunal rendered Judgement No. 700 in the case of Benthin v. the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The official text of the judgement in English and French is to be found in document AT/DEC/700. The judgement was initially communicated to the parties on 18 October 1995. However, it was not received by the Applicant. A copy of the judgement, which had been communicated to Ms. Benthin on 18 October 1995, was returned on 28 January 1996 to the office of the Executive Secretary of the Tribunal, marked "unknown". On 13 February 1996, the judgement was once again transmitted to the Applicant in the original mailing envelope and the applicant subsequently confirmed that the judgement had been received on 25 February 1996. This information was brought to the attention of the Chairman of the Committee when, on 4 March 1996, Ms. Benthin inquired about the time-limits for submitting an application to the Committee. The Chairman reviewed this information in the light of the provisions of article II, paragraph 1 (b), of the rules of procedure of the Committee and decided that for the purposes of the proceedings of the Committee 13 February 1996 should be considered the date on which the judgement was dispatched to Ms. Benthin by the Executive Secretary of the Tribunal.

12. The application from Ms. Benthin dated 5 April 1996, requesting a review of Judgement No. 700 rendered by the United Nations Administrative Tribunal in the case of Benthin v. the Secretary-General of the United Nations was received by the Secretary of the Committee on 10 April 1996.

13. On 22 May 1996, after translation of the application of Ms. Benthin into the official languages of the General Assembly, it was communicated in document A/AC.86/R.294 to all members of the Committee as well as to parties to the proceedings before the Administrative Tribunal, together with a copy of Tribunal Judgement No. 700 (AT/DEC/700). It should be mentioned that the application had attached to it 12 annexes which have not been circulated, since such circulation is not provided for in the rules of procedure of the Committee. Those documents may be examined in the office of the Secretary of the Committee (room S-3420I).

14. Comments of the Respondent submitted with respect to the application of Ms. Benthin in accordance with article V, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure of the Committee are contained in document A/AC.86/R.295.

C. Application received from Ms. Anna Mamalakis Pappas

15. On 22 November 1995, the United Nations Administrative Tribunal rendered Judgement No. 740 in the case of Pappas v. the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The official text of the judgement in English and French is to be found in document AT/DEC/740. The judgement was communicated to the parties on 2 February 1996.

16. The application from Ms. Pappas dated 29 March 1996, requesting a review of Judgement No. 740 rendered by the United Nations Administrative Tribunal in the case of Pappas v. the Secretary-General of the United Nations, was received by the Secretary of the Committee on the same date.

17. On 22 May 1996, after translation of the application of Ms. Pappas into the official languages of the General Assembly, it was communicated in document A/AC.86/R.296 to all members of the Committee as well as to the parties to the proceedings before the Administrative Tribunal, together with a copy of Tribunal Judgement No. 740 (AT/DEC/740). It should be mentioned that the application of Ms. Pappas had attached to it 12 annexes which have not been circulated, since such circulation is not provided for in the rules of procedure of the Committee. Those documents may be examined in the office of the Secretary of the Committee (room S-3420I).

18. Comments of the Respondent submitted with respect to the application of Ms. Pappas in accordance with article V, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure of the Committee are contained in document A/AC.86/R.297.

D. Application received from Ms. Samia Mikdashi

19. On 22 November 1995, the United Nations Administrative Tribunal rendered Judgement No. 741 in the case of Mikdashi v. the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

The official text of the judgement in English and French is to be found in document AT/DEC/741. The judgement was communicated to the parties on 2 February 1996.

20. The application from Ms. Mikdashi dated 1 April 1996, requesting a review of Judgement No. 741 rendered by the United Nations Administrative Tribunal in the case of Mikdashi v. the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, was received by the Secretary of the Committee on the same date. The application did not comply with the requirements set forth in article II, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Committee. Therefore, as provided for in article III, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Committee, on 1 April 1996 the application was returned to the Applicant with a request that it be corrected and resubmitted within three weeks from the date of its return. A corrected application of Ms. Mikdashi dated 17 April 1996 was received by the Secretary of the Committee on the same date.

21. On 22 May 1996, after translation of the application of Ms. Mikdashi into the official languages of the General Assembly, it was communicated in document A/AC.86/R.298 to all members of the Committee as well as to parties to the proceedings before the Administrative Tribunal, together with a copy of Tribunal Judgement No. 741 (AT/DEC/741).

22. Comments of the Respondent submitted with respect to the application of Ms. Mikdashi in accordance with article V, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure of the Committee are contained in document A/AC.86/R.299.

E. Application received from Mr. Museibes

23. On 21 November 1995, the United Nations Administrative Tribunal rendered Judgement No. 737 in the case of Museibes v. the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. The official text of the judgement in English and French is to be found in document AT/DEC/737. The judgement was communicated to the parties on 2 February 1996.

24. The application from Mr. Museibes dated 10 March 1996, requesting a review of Judgement No. 737 rendered by the United Nations Administrative Tribunal in the case of Museibes v. the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, was received by the Secretary of the Committee on 3 April 1996. The application did not comply with the requirements set forth in article II, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Committee. Therefore, as provided for in article III, paragraph 2 of the rules of procedure of the Committee, on 3 April 1996 the application was returned to the Applicant with a request that it be corrected and resubmitted within three weeks from the date of its return. A corrected application of Mr. Museibes dated 13 April 1996 was received by the Secretary of the Committee on 15 April 1996.

25. On 22 May 1996, after translation of the application of Mr. Museibes into the official languages of the General Assembly, it was communicated in document

A/AC.86/R.300 to all members of the Committee as well as to parties to the proceedings before the Administrative Tribunal, together with a copy of Tribunal Judgement No. 737 (AT/DEC/737). It should be mentioned that the application had attached to it six annexes which have not been circulated, since such circulation is not provided for in the rules of procedure of the Committee. Those documents may be examined in the office of the Secretary of the Committee (room S-3420I).

26. Comments of the Respondent submitted with respect to the application of Mr. Museibes in accordance with article V, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure of the Committee are contained in document A/AC.86/R.301.

F. Application received from Mr. Ali Abu Huzeima

27. On 22 November 1995, the United Nations Administrative Tribunal rendered Judgement No. 745 in the case of Huzeima v. the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. The official text of the judgement in English and French is to be found in document AT/DEC/745. The judgement was communicated to the parties on 2 February 1996.

28. The application from Mr. Huzeima dated 13 March 1996, requesting a review of Judgement No. 745 rendered by the United Nations Administrative Tribunal in the case of Huzeima v. the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, was received by the Secretary of the Committee on 20 March 1996. The application did not comply with the requirements set forth in article II, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Committee. Therefore, as provided for in article III, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Committee, on 1 April 1996 the application was returned to the Applicant with a request that it be corrected and resubmitted within three weeks from the date of its return. A corrected application of Mr. Huzeima dated 17 April 1996 was received by the Secretary of the Committee on 18 April 1996.

29. On 22 May 1996, after translation of the application of Mr. Huzeima into the official languages of the General Assembly, it was communicated in document A/AC.86/R.302 and Corr.1 to all members of the Committee as well as to parties to the proceedings before the Administrative Tribunal, together with a copy of Tribunal Judgement No. 745 (AT/DEC/745). It should be mentioned that the application had attached to it six annexes which have not been circulated, since such circulation is not provided for in the rules of procedure of the Committee. Those documents may be examined in the office of the Secretary of the Committee (room S-3420I).

30. Comments of the Respondent submitted with respect to the application of Mr. Huzeima in accordance with article V, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure of the Committee are contained in document A/AC.86/R.303.

G. General provisions

31. The official dossiers of the Administrative Tribunal in the cases referred to in paragraphs 7 to 30 above are on file with the Secretary of the Committee in room S-3420I and may be examined on request by members of the Committee.

32. Under article 11, paragraph 2, of the statute of the Administrative Tribunal, the Committee shall decide within 30 days from receipt of an application whether or not there is a substantial basis for such application. If the Committee decides that such a basis exists, it shall request an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. Under article 11, paragraph 4, the Committee is authorized by the General Assembly, for the purposes of the article, to request an advisory opinion of the Court. According to the provisions of article VII of the rules of procedure of the Committee, it shall be convened for the consideration of the application no later than 25 days from the date of receipt of the application. Under article II, paragraph 1 (c), of the same rules, the date of receipt by the Committee of an application is the date two weeks after the copies of the application are dispatched to the members of the Committee by its Secretary.

V. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

33. The terms of reference of the Committee are contained in article 11 of the statute of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal. That article was added to the statute by the General Assembly in its resolution 957 (X) of 8 November 1955. Its text is as follows:

"Article 11

"1. If a Member State, the Secretary-General or the person in respect of whom a judgement has been rendered by the Tribunal (including anyone who has succeeded to that person's rights on his death) objects to the judgement on the ground that the Tribunal has exceeded its jurisdiction or competence or that the Tribunal has failed to exercise jurisdiction vested in it, or has erred on a question of law relating to the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, or has committed a fundamental error in procedure which has occasioned a failure of justice, such Member State, the Secretary-General or the person concerned may, within thirty days from the date of the judgement, make a written application to the Committee established by paragraph 4 of this article asking the Committee to request an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the matter.

"2. Within thirty days from the receipt of an application under paragraph 1 of this article, the Committee shall decide whether or not there is a substantial basis for the application. If the Committee decides that such a basis exists, it shall request an advisory opinion of the Court, and the Secretary-General shall arrange to transmit to the Court the views of the person referred to in paragraph 1.

"3. If no application is made under paragraph 1 of this article, or if a decision to request an advisory opinion has not been taken by the Committee, within the periods prescribed in this article, the judgement of the Tribunal shall become final. In any case in which a request has been made for an advisory opinion, the Secretary-General shall either give effect to the opinion of the Court or request the Tribunal to convene specially in order that it shall confirm its original judgement, or give a new judgement, in conformity with the opinion of the Court. If not requested to convene specially, the Tribunal shall at its next session confirm its judgement or bring it into conformity with the opinion of the Court.

"4. For the purpose of this article, a Committee is established and authorized under paragraph 2 of Article 96 of the Charter to request advisory opinions of the Court. The Committee shall be composed of the Member States the representatives of which have served on the General Committee of the most recent regular session of the General Assembly. The Committee shall meet at United Nations Headquarters and shall establish its own rules.

"5. In any case in which award of compensation has been made by the Tribunal in favour of the person concerned and the Committee has requested an advisory opinion under paragraph 2 of this article, the Secretary-General, if satisfied that such person will otherwise be handicapped in protecting his interests, shall within fifteen days of the decision to request an advisory opinion make an advance payment to him of one third of the total amount of compensation awarded by the Tribunal less such termination benefits, if any, as have already been paid. Such advance payment shall be made on condition that, within thirty days of the action of the Tribunal under paragraph 3 of this article, such person shall pay back to the United Nations the amount, if any, by which the advance payment exceeds any sum to which he is entitled in accordance with the opinion of the Court."

34. At its 1st meeting, on 16 October 1956, the Committee adopted its rules of procedure, which were later amended on 25 October 1956, 21 January 1957, 11 December 1974, 16 February 1983 and 30 July 1991. The current text of the rules of procedure of the Committee is contained in document A/AC.86/2/Rev.4.

35. In accordance with article VIII of the rules of procedure of the Committee, all its deliberations, including the adoption of all decisions concerning applications, shall take place in private. The decisions of the Committee and the text of any questions to be addressed to the International Court of Justice, as well as the results of and the participants in any votes taken during the private deliberations, shall be formally announced at a public meeting, at which any member of the Committee may make a statement for the record. As provided in article XII of the rules of procedure of the Committee, sound recordings shall be prepared and kept of all proceedings of the Committee in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. If the Committee requests an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice in respect of an application, the Secretary, in accordance with article XII, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure, shall prepare and transmit to the Court, to all members of the

Committee and to the parties to the proceedings before the Administrative Tribunal, a verbatim record, in English and French, of the proceedings of the Committee in respect of that application, except for those in the private deliberations provided for in article VIII, paragraph 3.

VI. INQUIRIES

36. Inquiries may be addressed to the Secretary of the Committee, room S-3420I, extension 3-5347.